

Steve Miller (WBBM 780)

Aug 25, 2009 - ARLINGTON HEIGHTS, Ill. (WBBM) -- Overflowing crowds -- as many as a thousand people -- eager to debate health care reform filled the Arlington Heights Village Hall - twice - when Republican Congressman Mark Kirk led back-to-back town hall meetings yesterday.

One Arlington Heights police officer says the crowd started showing up for the 3 p.m. meeting at 9 yesterday morning.

Cong. Kirk (R-10th) says he is not for the "public option" in health care.

This man was among those trying to change Kirk's mind.

"We all have a fear of too much government, going back a couple of decades here, but I think we've seen in the last eight years that sometimes we didn't have enough government involvement. If you look at the meltdown..."

But then he added...

"The post office runs relatively well. The military..."

"I think you lost the crowd on that one," Kirk said.

"Where else can you have somebody take a letter from your house and deliver it anywhere in the country for 44 cents."

And, he praised the military. And so did Kirk. And the man pointed out, the military is

government-run.

Another man waved documents he'd just printed out.

"This is the constitution of the United States of America. Only 18 pages."

One woman referred to the constitution.

"I don't understand how the United States government is trying to go forth to provide everyone with insurance coverage when that's not provided for us in the United States constitution, which that gentleman has a copy of."

Another man referred back to a statistic Kirk quoted in his opening statement.

"We do not have 46 million uninsured Americans. We have 46 million uninsured people. We can only help those that are U-S citizens."

At the end, Congressman Kirk said:

"My hope is, as we get to September, we can lower the temperature and come forward on some practical reforms."

But he says he is against a public option. The hotly debated public option would be a government insurance option to compete with private insurers.